

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 863

By Matlock

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Kenneth and Estelle Ward for their honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee upon the Science Education Chair of Excellence Award being established in their honor.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth and Estelle Ward are such estimable educators who evince the greatest integrity and probity in all their chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout both of their exemplary careers as educators, the Wards distinguished themselves as public-spirited citizens of the highest order and as exceptional assets to their community; and

WHEREAS, though both retired from the teaching profession in 1990, Mr. and Mrs. Ward's legacies of passion for bettering the lives of their students live on; and

WHEREAS, Farragut High School, the institution where Mr. Ward spent many years of his tenure, has recently established its first Science Education Chair of Excellence Award in honor of the Wards' seventy-six years of combined teaching service; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Ward met Estelle while carpooling from Lenoir City to the University of Tennessee, where both studied Education, more than forty years ago; and

WHEREAS, the couple was married June 8, 1967, at Mrs. Ward's sister's home in Glendale; today, they live in the home in which Mr. Ward grew up, a home built by a Lenoir City founder's descendent; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ward's dedication during his years at Farragut High School was unparalleled; he worked around the clock and at one point went back to school at Oak Ridge

Associated Universities in order to keep up-to-date with technology and benefit his students;
and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ward served as a first-grade teacher in Bearden, Lenoir City, and Farragut, but primarily at Cedar Bluff Elementary, where she positively influenced many young lives with her attentive hands-on instruction; and

WHEREAS, the Wards have stayed actively involved in their community and now see the fruits of their labor, as their former students have gone on to become community leaders themselves, but still remain in touch with these mentors who guided them years ago; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Ward's remarkable success as public servants and civic leaders is directly attributable to their reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and their uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, the Wards are extremely giving people who often reach out with compassion to those whom life has treated unkindly, and they epitomize the ideal of consummate professionals, dedicated public servants, and reliable friends and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth and Estelle Ward are wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and they should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize Kenneth and Estelle Ward for their honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as educators, commend them upon the establishment of the Science Education Chair of Excellence Award in their honor, and salute their unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.